



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Scott Walker | Secretary Jon E. Litscher

Division of Juvenile Corrections | Administrator's Office

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO TO COUNTIES

MEMO # 18-02

DATE: February 14, 2018

TO: County Departments of Human/Social Services Directors

FROM: John D. Paquin, Administrator 
Shelby A.B. McCulley, Assistant Administrator 

SUBJECT: Thinking for a Change Pilot

In Administrator's Memo to Counties 17-07, we announced that the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) was working towards piloting the Thinking for a Change (T4C) cognitive behavioral treatment program. The purpose of this memo is to provide more information about this effort.

Currently, Copper Lake School and Lincoln Hills School (CLS/LHS) use the Juvenile Cognitive Intervention Program (JCIP) for its cognitive behavioral programming. DJC is interested in moving to T4C in order to improve alignment with evidence-based programs, as T4C is a validated, evidence-based program proven effective on both the adult and juvenile population. T4C addresses similar concepts to the current JCIP curriculum at CLS/LHS; however, T4C combines cognitive restructuring, self-change, social skills building, problem solving, and graduated practice in a manner that is more creative and practical for youth offenders' ability and understanding. In particular, the T4C curriculum has an increased focus on skills practice which, according to research, is a key element in changing thinking and behaviors.

The pilot will begin in February 2018, and we anticipate the pilot period will include three complete groups of T4C. During the pilot period, all youth identified with a cognitive behavioral need will be assigned to either JCIP or T4C with consideration to their risk, need and responsibility. T4C groups will each have approximately 8 -12 youth. Each T4C group will complete 25 lessons (see attached chart), with interventions building upon previous lessons in order to provide group members with a step-by-step process for addressing challenging and stressful real life situations.

T4C will complement other programming offered at CLS/LHS which will allow youth the opportunity to enhance retention and application of skills with increased practice.

Currently, CLS/LHS also offers JCIP Repeaters (an abbreviated version of JCIP re-emphasizing important concepts) for youth returning to CLS/LHS who have a cognitive behavioral need. This will continue during the T4C pilot period for youth who completed JCIP. Moving forward, youth returning to CLS/LHS who completed T4C and still have a cognitive-behavioral need will retake the T4C program, as it will focus on current, not past, behaviors.

Youth releasing from CLS/LHS to DJC community supervision may currently complete JCIP 3, which is a third component of JCIP designed for use in the community. With implementation of T4C, youth releasing from CLS/LHS to DJC supervision with ongoing cognitive-behavioral treatment needs will participate in a combination of agent-guided interventions such as Carey Guides, Brief Intervention Tools, and Change Journals. Youth may also participate in individual and/or family therapy where needed, and purchased services contracts for DJC-supervised youth include a cognitive-behavioral component. Additional guidelines for cognitive-behavioral treatment in the field will be developed as the pilot progresses.

Thank you for your interest in DJC programming and services for youth. Please share this memo with other system stakeholders and contact us if you have any questions.

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